

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are writing you with regard to your decision last week to pause all new U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports. As Coloradans, we are concerned about what this decision could mean for our constituents who, whether directly or indirectly, have jobs connected to the natural gas sector.

Almost two years ago Russia launched a brutal invasion into Ukraine, which led the European Union (EU) and the rest of the world to reevaluate their relationship with Russia. At the time of the invasion, Russian gas made up more than 40 percent of the EU's gas imports. Since then, the EU has cut back on its reliance of Russian LNG to the point where it only accounted for 12 percent of imports late last year.¹ This is largely thanks to U.S. LNG exports. We have been able to help our European allies wean themselves off Russian gas and replaced it with our own. This has also allowed the EU to become less dependent on coal. This represents a win both for our international allies but also for the U.S. because these exports represent a huge economic benefit for the communities producing this natural gas.

As you may know, Colorado is one of the top 10 natural gas producing states in the nation and has all or part of 11 of the largest natural gas fields in the country.² We have 303,730 jobs connected to the oil and gas industry which provide \$34.1 billion of labor income.³ This represents real economic results for our state with \$48.7 billion being contributed to Colorado's total gross domestic product. However, the decision to pause new LNG exports will have a chilling effect on the gas sector and cause real harm to Colorado consumers and workers. If Colorado does not have the opportunity to take advantage of the growing LNG export industry, we will see a decline in investment overall for natural gas in our state. This could lead to higher prices for consumers and threaten our local economy.

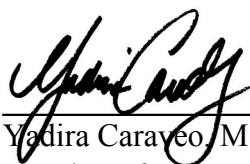
A pause on new LNG export approvals could have a devastating impact both on Colorado's economy and our international partners. We urge you to reconsider your decision by allowing LNG export approvals to continue to provide certainty for Coloradans. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

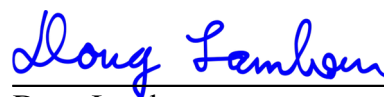
¹ <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-natural-gas-european-union-dependence-ukraine-war/32754244.html>

² <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=CO>

³ [API | New Analysis: Colorado's Abundant Natural Gas and Oil Resources Provide Over \\$48 Billion in Economic, Trade & Job Benefits](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yedira Caraveo', written in a cursive style.

Yedira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Lamborn', written in a cursive style.

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress